

CHESTER COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Climate Change and Resilience Attitudes and Perceptions Survey- Results

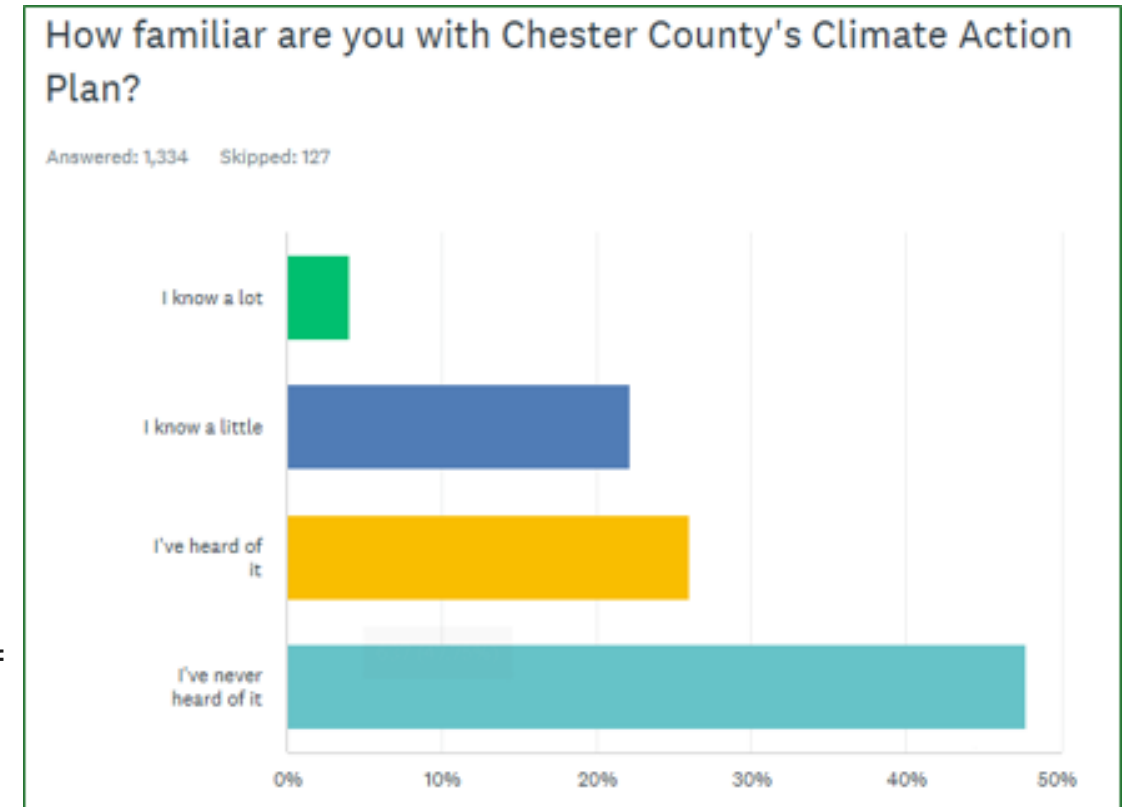


Survey Overview

- 20 questions
- Survey 1 of 2
- Distributed via CCPC newsletter, social media, partner sharing (municipalities, environmental organizations, etc.), and through attending events in the community
- Open to those who live, work, and visit Chester County
- Purpose: gauge respondents' perceptions about climate change, the threats it poses, its biggest impacts, and what the county and municipalities should be prioritizing
- ~1250 respondents completed the survey

Key Takeaways

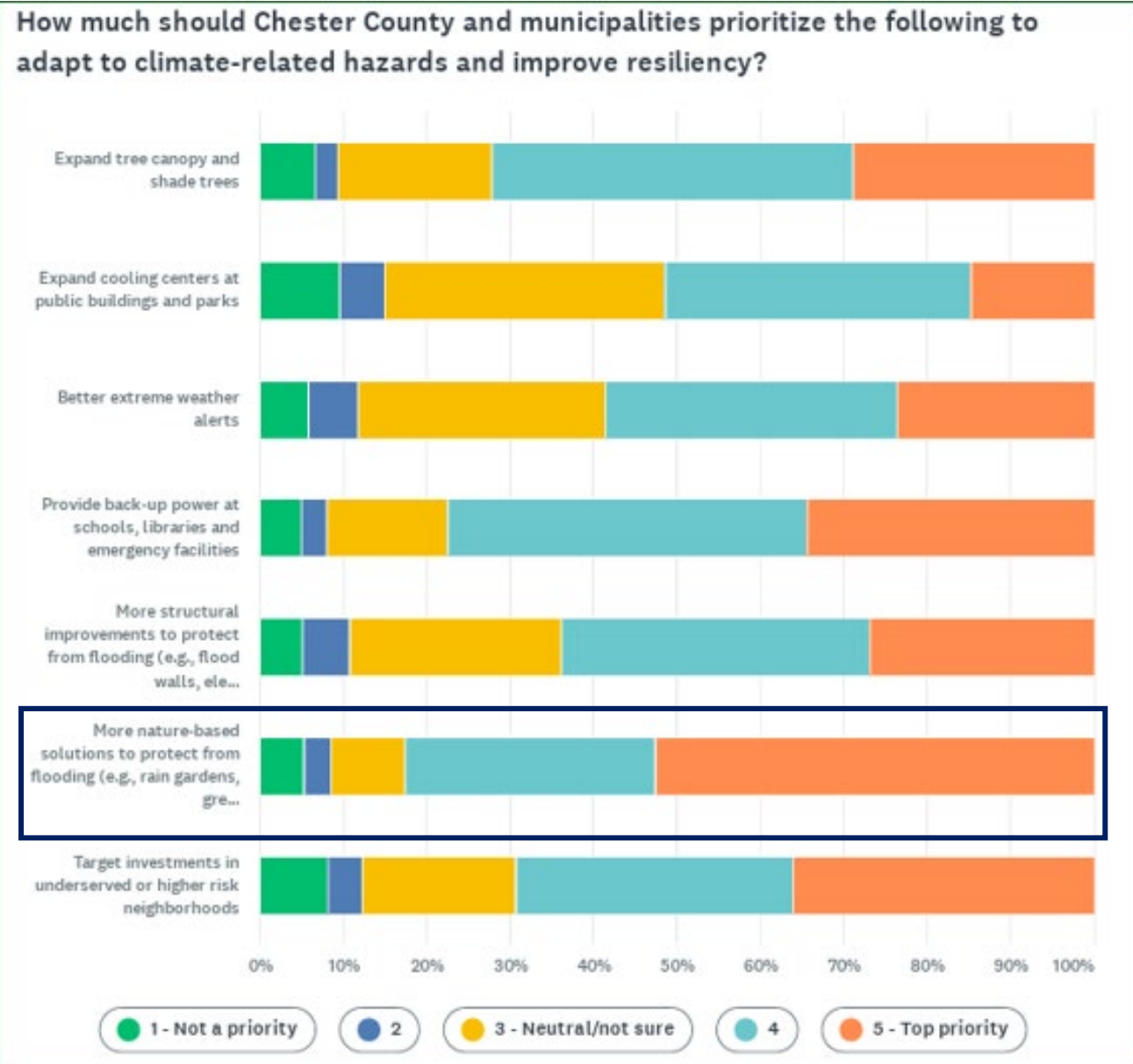
- Nearly half of respondents have not heard of the Climate Action Plan
- **Many respondents saw new development, overdevelopment and destruction of open space as a barrier to resiliency and as contributing to worse flooding**
- To improve county resiliency, respondents generally favored **nature-based solutions** the most (over half of people said that nature-based solutions should be a top priority to improving the County's resiliency)

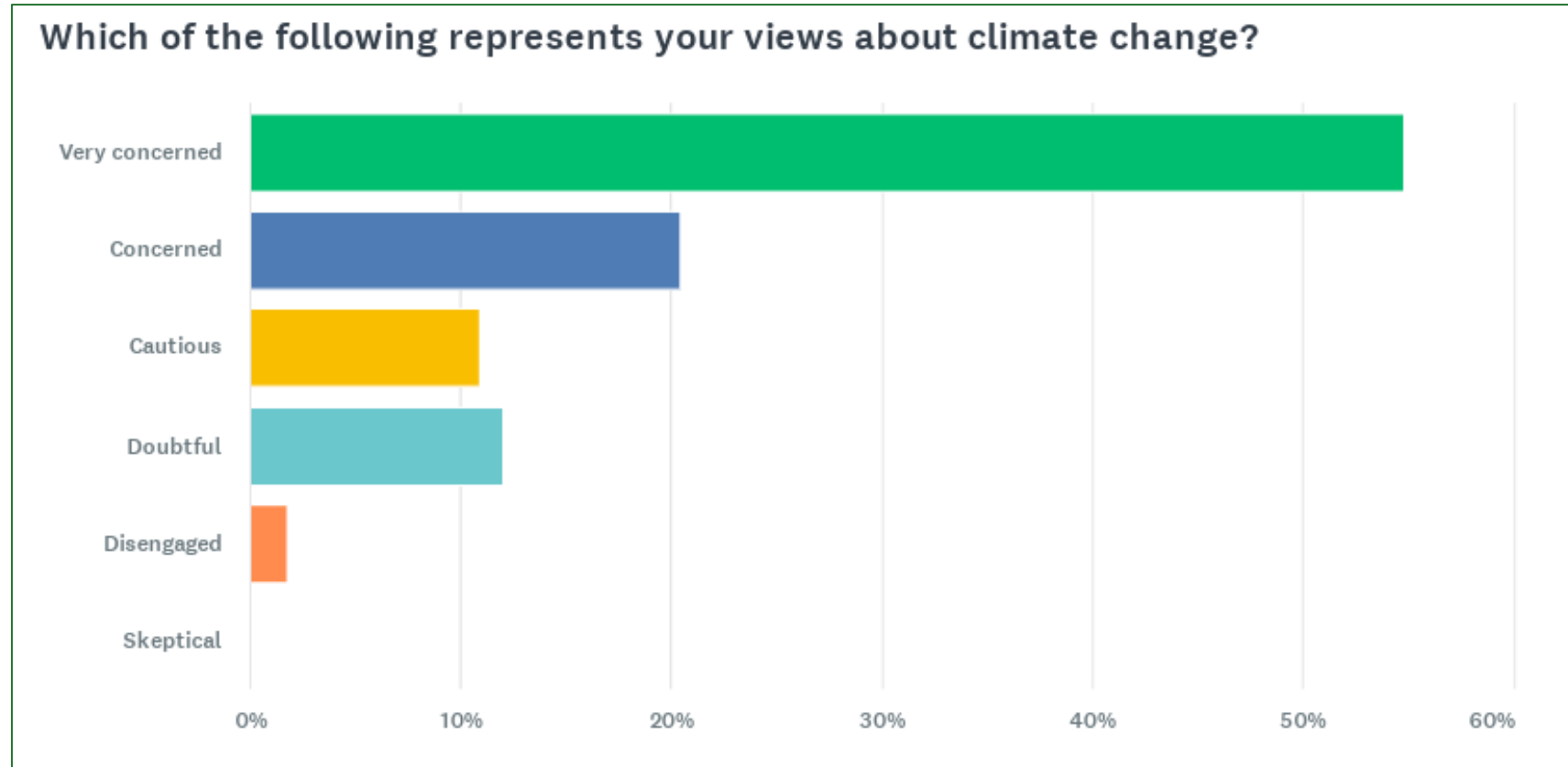


Key Takeaways

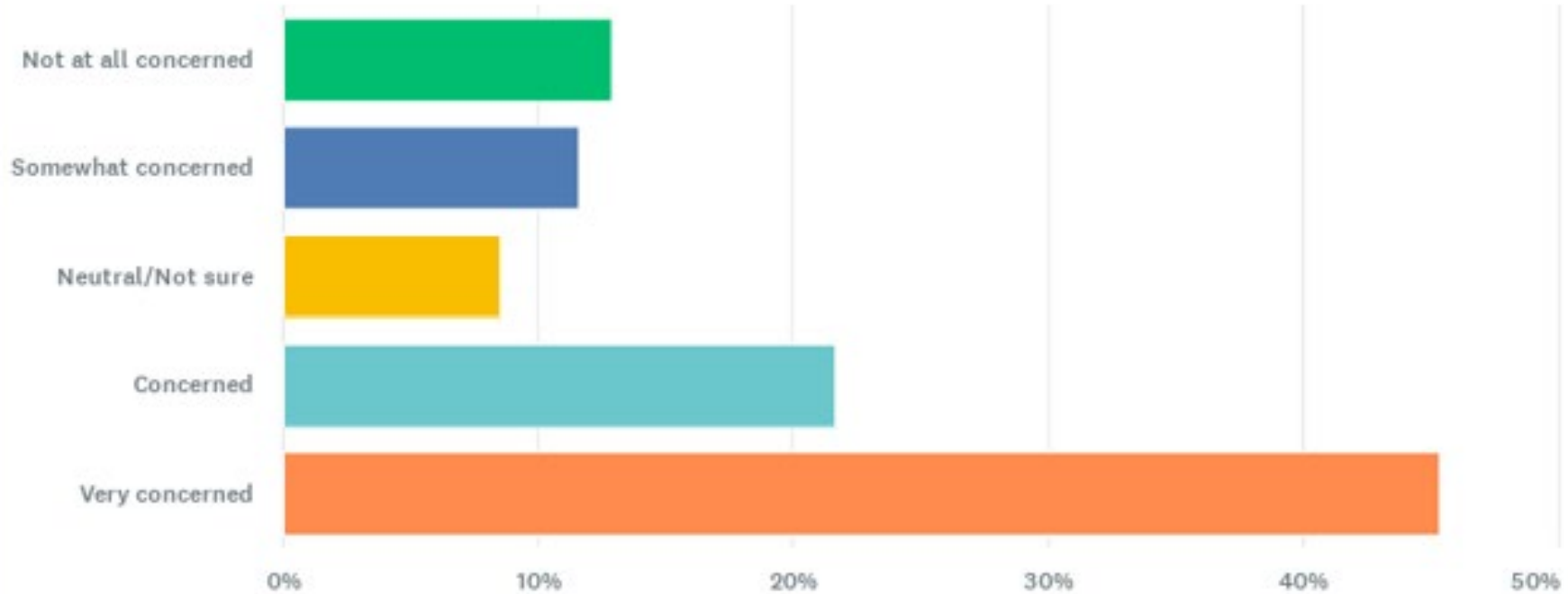
- A majority of respondents are either concerned or very concerned about climate change
- People want **more tangible support during/following extreme weather events**
- Over 70% of respondents would support measures by the County to:
 - help residents and businesses reduce greenhouse gas/carbon emissions
 - deliver programs that make communities more resilient to climate change impacts
 - consider greenhouse gas or carbon reduction as a factor in its financial decision-making (where relevant)
 - consider climate resilience as a factor in its financial decision making (where relevant)

Blue + Orange =
respondents who
ranked each item as a
priority or high priority





What is your level of concern that climate change will affect Chester County over the coming decades?



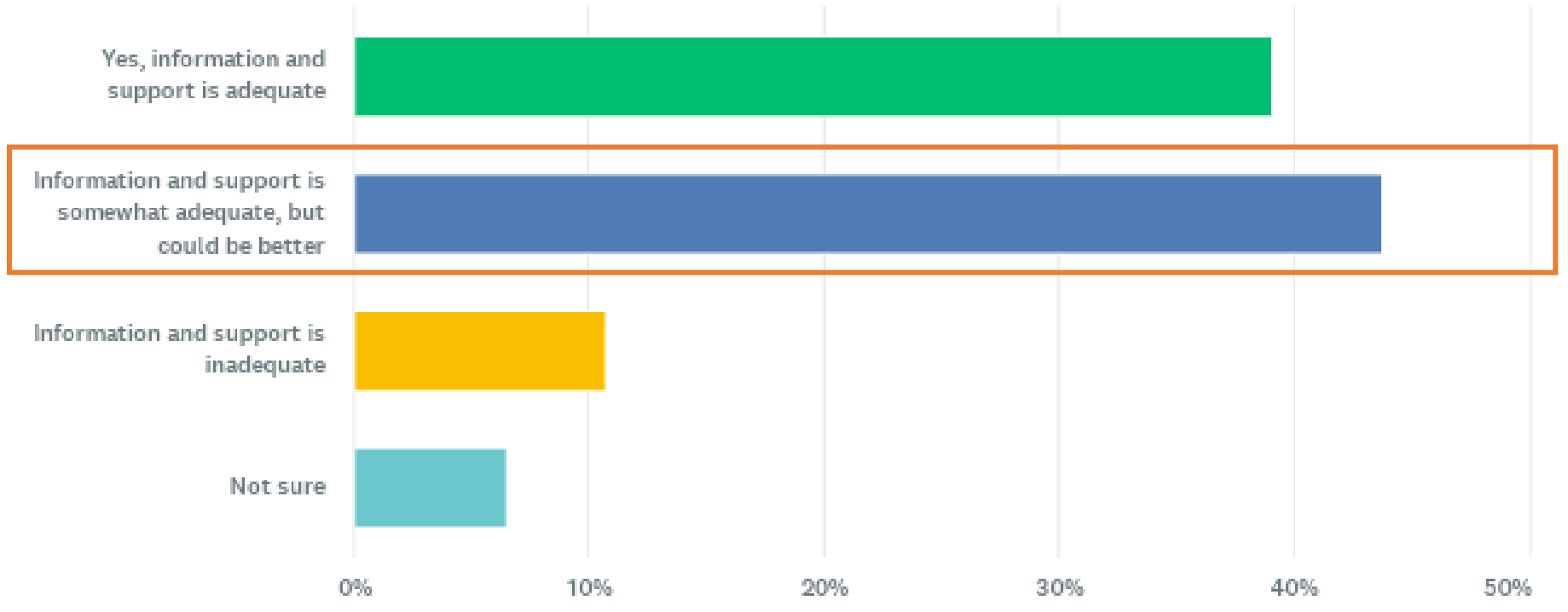
Climate Resilience

- **Broad concern:** Most respondents are concerned about climate impacts to infrastructure, public health, natural systems, agriculture, property, and the economy.
- **Recent storm impacts:** Most respondents have experienced flooding, storm damage, or unsafe travel from heavier rain or stronger storms in the past five years.
- **Preparedness and communication gaps:** Respondents feel more resilient to extreme heat or cold than to flooding, extended power outages, or evacuation needs, and want clearer road/flooding updates, outage information, and guidance on where to get help.
- **Support for resilience actions:** Most respondents support nature-based flood solutions, backup power, tree canopy, structural flood protection, targeted investments, and improved warning systems.

Information & Support Before/During Extreme Weather Events

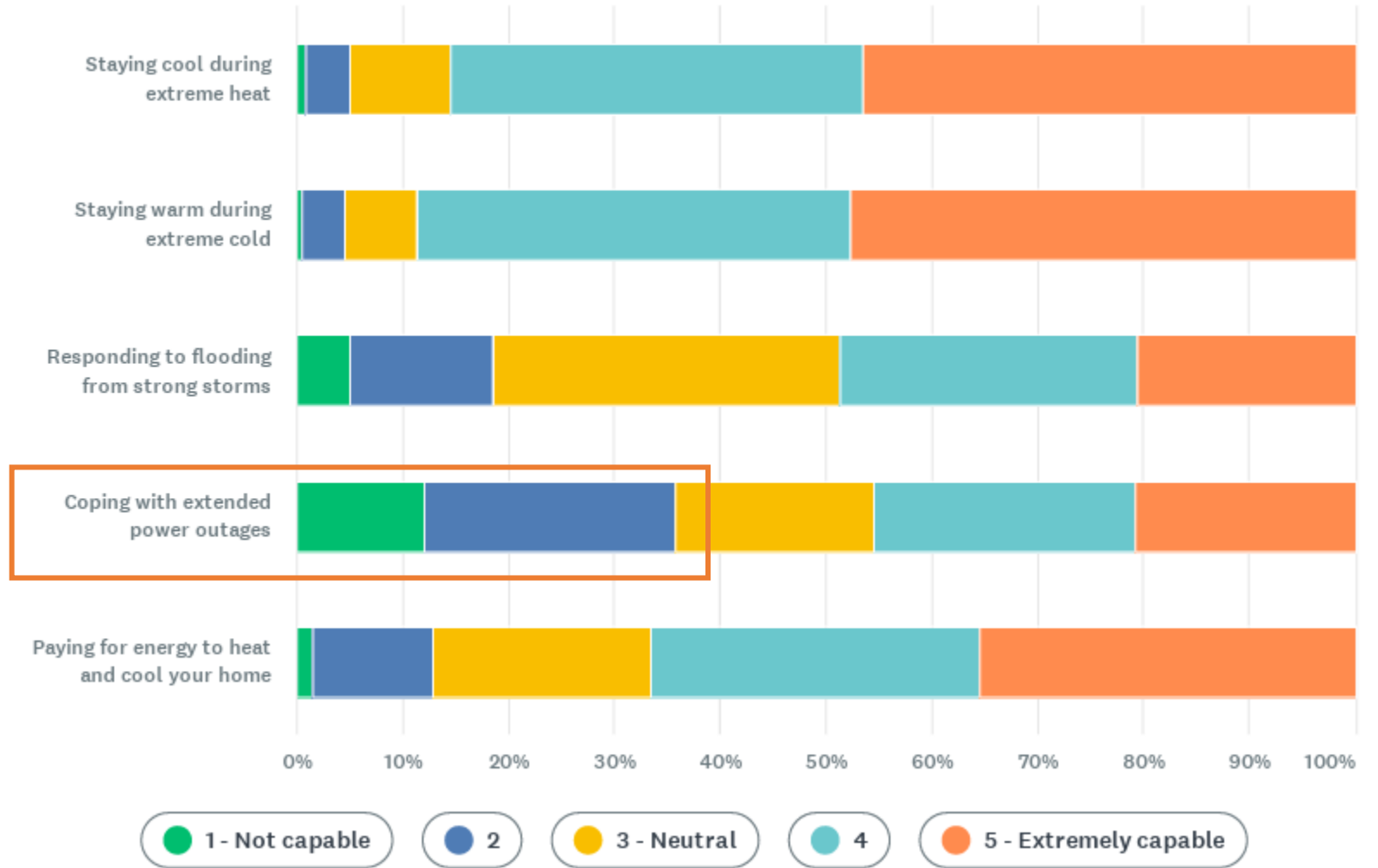
- Alert-related suggestions
 - How to alert (social media vs in person, call vs text vs email, push notifications, etc.)
 - Info that should be included in alerts
- Suggestions related to electric distribution companies:
 - Complaints of slow power restoration and of poor communication
- General comments that info about events is sufficient, but that support given is not sufficient
 - "They provide info but not support. For example, I have no idea where or if the county opens shelters during severe weather events"
- General suggestions made to strengthen the grids
 - Add micro grids
 - Bury utility lines

Do you feel your community (local government, utilities, emergency services, neighbors) provides adequate information and support before and during extreme weather events?

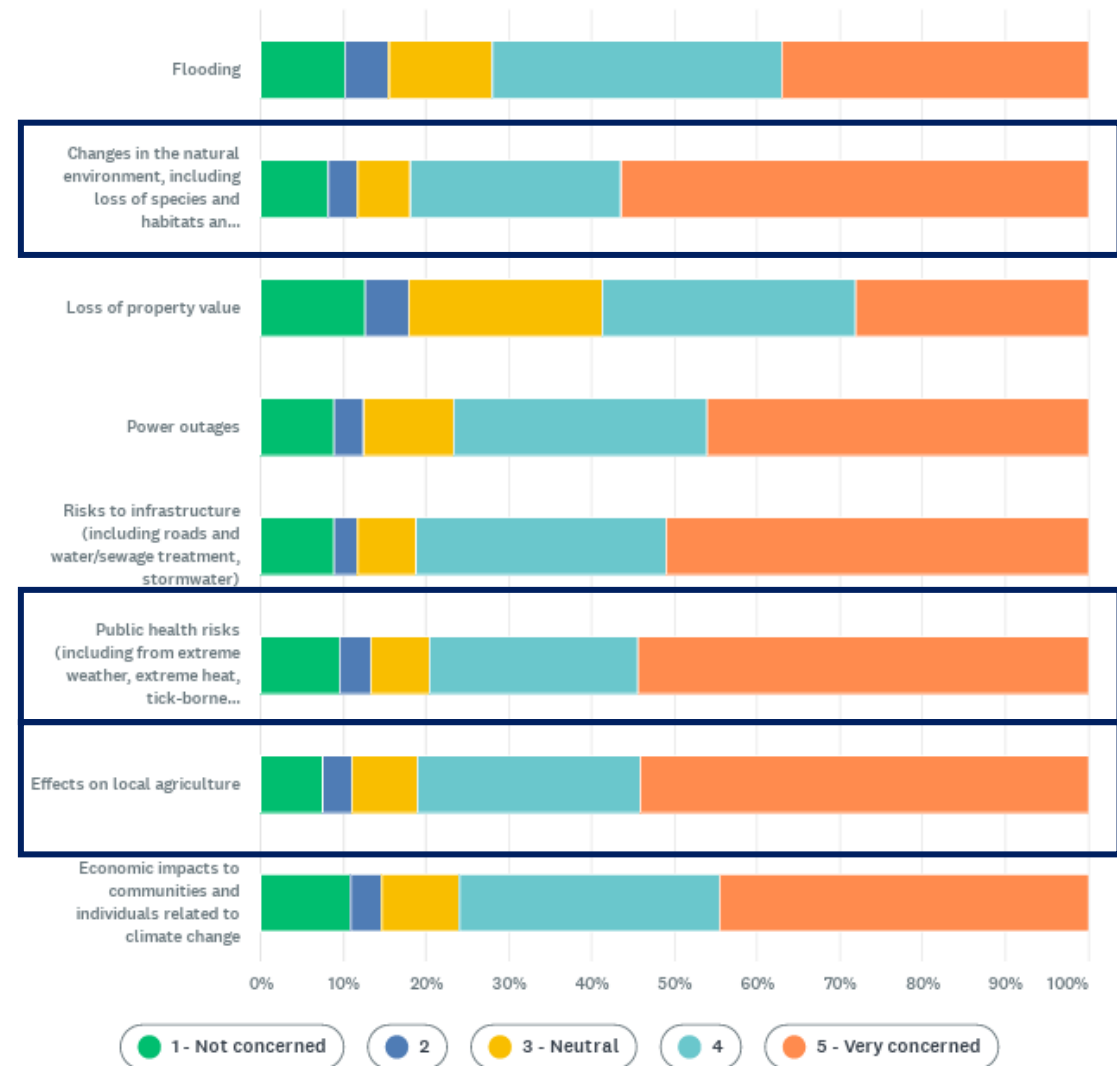


Green + Blue =
respondents who are
*not capable or a
little capable* of
adapting to climate-
related hazards

How capable are you and your household of the following:



Please tell us what you think about impacts from climate change, related to you and your community's resilience, by selecting your level of concern about the following impacts:



Blue + Orange =
respondents who are
concerned or very
concerned